

# JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

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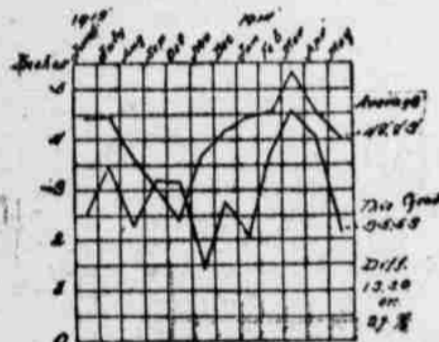
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

## PROPER SURFACE DRAINAGE

With Proper Drainage the Farmer Can Snap His Fingers at the Occasional Comparatively Dry Periods Experienced in Tennessee in a Year.

The State of Tennessee has just passed through the dryest 12 months since rainfall records have been kept. This would seem to be a good time to look at our farming methods and find whether or not they are calculated to take advantage of the many variations in rainfall and rainfall distribution to which this section of the country is subject.

During the first three months of 1913 the rainfall was abundant, amounting to 21.53 inches. This amount of water properly conserved would have insured a bumper crop in 1913. This is more rain than many sections of the West receive in a whole year and they grow fully as big crops as we do. After a large portion of this rain had run off, carrying some of the best part of our land with it, the weather turned dry and by June we were needing rain. But instead of the usual amount of rain, we had for the 12 months beginning June 1, 1913, the dryest year ever experienced in Tennessee. The accompanying chart shows graphically the state of affairs. The upper line represents the normal or average rainfall while the lower line shows the rainfall for the 12 months ending May 31, 1914. Only



two months, September and October, had more than the average rainfall. These two months however, put our soil in fine condition for fall sowing and we have had a splendid crop of wheat although it was reduced somewhat by the dry weather in May. We have grown other crops too, but they have not been up to standard and in many cases have been considered failures.

Now let us see what caused all the trouble. What is the reason we are discouraged? Is it really because of lack of rainfall, or have we failed to do our part?

Our average rainfall for a year is 48.85 inches. In the 12 months in question we fell short of that amount by 13.30 inches or a little more than 27 per cent. Just think of that. We had less than three-fourths of the average rainfall. Is it any wonder our crops were poor? But let us look a little further. The actual rainfall for the 12 dry months was 35.53 inches. That is more than the average rainfall for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma or Texas, and it is generally understood that they usually grow very fair crops in those states. It is more than twice the average rainfall of some of the great dry farming sections of the northwest. Are we suffering then because nature has failed to do her part? Not a bit of it. We are in trouble because we have not used the rainfall we did get, but have allowed a large portion of it to run off the surface carrying the finest of our soil with it. If anyone doubts this let him look at our rivers which have been yellow with mud during this whole dry season.

When we learn to farm in such a way as to prevent the waste of valuable water by surface drainage, we can snap our fingers at the occasional comparatively dry periods experienced here in Tennessee.—J. F. Voorhees, Consulting Meteorologist, University of Tennessee.

## TOWN FRUIT TREES A MENACE

(C. A. Keffer, University of Tennessee).

In every part of the state the fruit trees on town lots are infested by San Jose scale, and are a menace to orchards, the scale being carried on the feet of birds from these infested trees to orchards throughout their vicinity. As the lot owner has but a few trees he thinks it will not pay him to buy a spraying outfit, and so his trees are neglected. The care of fruit trees should make a comfortable living for at least one man in every small town. He should own a good barrel pump spraying outfit, and be a master of its use. He should be a skillful pruner. Thus equipped he should be able to contract with citizens for the care of their trees by the year, pruning, spraying for scale in winter, and for insects and diseases in the growing season. At a moderate price, which most men would gladly pay, this work should be profitable for the man and his patrons.

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